

CLAIMS

1 1. A method of providing a flexible infrastructure for managing a process, comprising:
2 defining a workflow type;
3 building a workflow pointer that defines the location of a database within a network;
4 coding subforms for the defined workflow type;
5 defining and customizing role documents;
6 building process flow documents for the defined workflow type; and
7 building action control documents for determining what happens to the defined
8 workflow type.

1 2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of defining the workflow type
2 includes the step of building a set of keyword documents into the database that
3 uniquely identify the workflow type.

1 3. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of defining and customizing role
2 documents includes the step of building a set of role definition keywords and role
3 documents that control the workflow type.

1 4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the defined workflow type uses the
2 process flow documents to determine what action a given user may perform within a
3 given workflow document.

1 5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the action control document run is defined
2 by the process flow documents.

1 6. A system for providing a flexible infrastructure for managing a process, comprising:
2 means for defining a workflow type;
3 means for building a workflow pointer that defines the location of a database within a
4 network;

5 means for coding subforms for the defined workflow type; means for defining and
6 customizing role documents;
7 means for building process flow documents for the defined workflow type; and
8 means for building action control documents for determining what happens to the
9 defined workflow type.

1 7. A system according to Claim 6, wherein the means for defining the workflow type
2 includes means for building a set of keyword documents into the database that
3 uniquely identify the workflow type.

1 8. A system according to Claim 6, wherein the means for defining and customizing
2 role documents includes means for building a set of role definition keywords and role
3 documents that control the workflow type.

1 9. A system according to Claim 6, wherein the defined workflow type uses the process
2 flow documents to determine what action a given user may perform within a given
3 workflow document.

1 10. A system according to Claim 6, wherein the action control document run is
2 defined by the process flow documents.

1 11. A program storage device readable by machine and tangibly embodying a set of
2 instructions for the machine to perform method steps for providing a flexible
3 infrastructure for managing a process, said method steps comprising:
4 defining a workflow type;
5 building a workflow pointer that defines the location of a database within a network;
6 coding subforms for the defined workflow type;
7 defining and customizing role documents;
8 building process flow documents for the defined workflow type; and
9 building action control documents for determining what happens to the defined
10 workflow type.

1 12. A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the step of defining the
2 workflow type includes the step of building a set of keyword documents into the
3 database that uniquely identify the workflow type.

1 13. A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the step of defining and
2 customizing role documents includes the step of building a set of role definition
3 keywords and role documents that control the workflow type.

1 14. A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the defined workflow
2 type uses the process flow documents to determine what action a given user may
3 perform within a given workflow document.

1 15. A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the action control
2 document run is defined by the process flow documents.